

THE

שקל

SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

AINA and the Yom Kippur War

Quarter Shekel—A Controversial Coin

Medals of Israel's Banks

Collecting in Israel

Retrograde Inscriptions

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Hannukah Coin Announced

Pidyon Haben Coin—5th in Series

Aleph Beth

AINA Activities

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THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AINA WINS! Everyone WINS with AINA!

WINS? Certainly; as W-I-N-S . . . Westchester Israel Numismatic Society! Westchester, the lovely suburb above New York is the scene of the

newest of our evergrowing circle of educational and cultural societies. It was recently my privilege to be part of the launching of this new group and I am sure that across the Nation you will take as much pride as I do in welcoming this grand new body of interested collectors and historians. You'll surely be reading about them in future issues of *The Shekel* as they launch their programs of activities.

This has been a very emotional and trying period for AINA and for all AINA members. The daily headlines and the evening TV news of the Yom

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AINA MEMBERS AND CLUBS MOBILIZE

By phone, mail and in dramatic actions at regular meetings switched entirely or partially to emergency efforts to assist Israel in the crisis of the *Yom Kippur War*, AINA members rallied to the call.

In *Washington, D.C.*, the first Order of Business of the October meeting of the INS of Washington was to vote a generous donation from the club's treasury.

In *Central New Jersey*, the mid-October meeting only days after the Arab invasion was the scene of a special coin and stamp auction of donated items; it raised \$5,200 which was immediately contributed to the UJA Emergency Fund.

Brooklyn, New York INS members responded to the call with a quickly planned INS auction to raise funds.

In *Tidewater, Virginia*, the regularly planned October meeting of the INS was changed to an emergency auction with all proceeds donated to the UJA emergency fund.

In *New York*, the INS held a donated auction which raised over \$1,000.00.

The first meeting of the *Board of Directors* following the war was held in early November. High on the order of business was authorization for a special committee of Board Members

Robert Messing, Mel Wacks and Nat Sobel to organize a national appeal to numismatists to donate materials for sale or auction. All proceeds will be donated to the emergency funds being assembled in the U.S. and among friends of Israel all over the world.

One of the largest publicly announced actions on behalf of Israel by an AINA member was the reported donation to Israel of the auction proceedings of \$50,000 from the sale of the Judaic numismatic collection of Dr. J. L. Friebrun, a Beverly Hills, California heart specialist. The collection had been sold in late September in New York City at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

At the AINA Workshop conducted as part of the Grand Central Coin Convention in New York in early November, Israel Press Consul A. Rapaport delivered a comprehensive report of events surrounding the complicated cease-fire which was in progress at the time. The audience of over 200 heard his presentation in total silence.

AINA members are urged to participate in their local community drives and in their AINA chapters to assist Israel in the vital reconstruction effort which will be required.

THE QUARTER SHEKEL OF YEAR ONE OF THE FIRST JEWISH REVOLT

by Arye Ben-David

Introduction

In October 1971 the Israel Museum held a "Special Exhibit" in which a Quarter Shekel of the Year One of the First Jewish Revolt against Rome (66 C. E.) was shown. It is the first Quarter Shekel of Year One, found so far,¹ and together with the Quarter Shekel of year four² the only two Quarter Shekels from the period of the First Revolt. The obverse of this Quarter Shekel of Year One shows a Chalice with a smooth wide rim, one pellet appearing on each side under rim, the stem of the Chalice having a knob above its middle. A circle of roughly designed pearls surround the legend. The entire image is placed slightly to the left centre indicating 'Year of the First Revolt'. Above we find the date: **פ** = 1 (year one) surrounding it there is the inscription **רבע השקל** (Reva Ha 'Shekel = quarter of a shekel). The reverse depicts a "stem with three half-ripe pomegranates in their transition from blossom to fruit", as the late Leo Kadman described the sign in the third volume of the *Corpus Nummorum Palaestinensium*.³ But actually it may well be a stylized rendering of some other floral device⁴, perhaps fruits.⁵



Figure 1

Quarter Shekel of Year One of the First Jewish Revolt Against Rome

This picture of the Quarter Shekel, being published in the *Israel Numismatic Journal* Vol. II. No. 1-2, 1964. The perforation nearer the upper edge of the coin is clearly visible on the photograph of both the obverse and the reverse of the coin. The author wishes to express his thanks to the Editor of the *Journal*, the *Israel Coin and Medals Corp.* Jerusalem for permission to reproduce the photographs, granted by letter, dated 14.2.73.

The circle of pearls around the design holds the following inscription: **ירושלם קדשה** (Jerusalem Qedosha = Jerusalem the Holy). The casting of planchets, dies, the style of symbols and legends as well as the outstanding finish are "wholly identical with those of the shekels and half shekels of year one of the war."⁶ This has led various authorities, Mr. Arye Kindler, the Director of the Kadman Numismatic Museum in the Ha-Aretz Museum in Tel Aviv, who is Israel's leading numismatist, as well as Dr. Ya'akov Meshorer from the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, Mr. V. Clain-Stefanelli from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, and Dr. Leo Miltenberg from the Department of Numismatics of the Bank Leu A. G. in Zurich, among others, to the conclusion that this very rare coin was indeed minted in 66 C. E., the first year of the First Jewish Revolt against Rome.

The author of this paper, however, can not accept this opinion of his distinguished numismatists. There are four important reasons for a reassessment: firstly, the viewpoint of the economic historian must be taken into consideration; secondly, the analysis of the silver fineness of the coin; thirdly,



Top: Bar Kochba — dated Year Two of the Liberation (CE 133) and inscribed "Jerusalem."

Second Row: (left) Bronze coin dated Year Four (CE 69) of the Jewish Revolt against the Romans with inscription "For the Freedom of Zion; (center) a "Year One (CE 132) bronze coin of the Bar Kochba — with Hebrew inscription Jerusalem inside wreath; (right) a "Year Three" (CE 68) coin of the great Revolt, with the inscription "Freedom of Zion".

Third row: All three are silver coins struck during the Bar Kochba war of resistance (CE 132-5). All are dated "Year Three" of the Liberation and bear the inscription, "For the Freedom of Zion".

Bottom Row: (left) A silver shekel dated "Year Two" (CE 67) of the Great Revolt and inscribed "Jerusalem the Holy"; (right) a silver "year Three" Bar Kochba coin inscribed "For the Freedom of Jerusalem".

an important fact concerning the perforated condition of the coin which has been known to both Mr. Clain-Stefanelli and Dr. Meshorer, but has been not been mentioned by either of them; and last but not least, the different style, the exceptionally extreme 'off-centered' stamping and the image of the corrupted legend.

I. The Economic -Historical Background

The author has shown in detail that the standard currency of Jewish Palestine in those days were the silver Tetradrachm issued by the autonomous mint of Zor (Tyros).⁷ The Tetradrachm was called "Sela" or Shekel Ha-Qodesh, the Didrachm was called "Shekel". Between the years 126/5 B. C. E. and 55/6 C. E. they were struck in Zor with an average fineness of silver of 92.3%.⁸ They dominated the market of Palestine far beyond the date at which the mint at Zor ceased to function. We learn from Talmudic sources as well as from papyri that they were used as official currency at least until 135 C. E., if not until 171 C. E.⁹ During the 180 years in which the mint at Zor had been functioning, it had never issued the coin of a single drachm, which equals a quarter Tetradrachm, because in Jewish Palestine there was no economic demand for such small silver coinage. On the other hand, the Roman denar which was equivalent to the Quarter Shekel became current in Palestine only from the rule of Nerva (96-98 C. E.) up to the rule of Marcus Aurelius (161-180 C. E.).¹⁰ From the viewpoint of the economic historian, it seems rather illogical that the insurgents in the turmoil (66 C. E.) should have found it necessary above all to strike Quarter Shekels which were never current money on the market and quite unnecessary for the payment of the Half-Shekel polltax into the Temple treasury. Furthermore, the great number of Talmudic sources concerning the Half-Shekel poll tax do not mention the 'Quarter Shekel' even once at any time as a current money for this pay-

ment. A. Suhle is correct in pointing out that the striking of silver money manifests the national autonomy gained by the Jewish insurgents,¹¹ but the striking of the Shekel or the half Shekel would have sufficed to establish this point. For this reason alone it seems doubtful whether we may put this Quarter Shekel of Year One and, for that matter, the other Quarter Shekel of Year Four, which will be discussed later, in the same category as the shekels and half shekels issued during the years one to five of the First Revolt of the Jews against Rome. From the standpoint of an economic-historian, there simply was no need to mint such a coin in 66 C. E. and it is unintelligible for the common sense of the economic historians that the leaders of the First Revolt, had in times of war and revolt no other sorrows but stamping coins which had not been common currency in those times and nobody needed them generally during all that time, much less so in such a stormy period.

II. The Metallurgical Analysis

Mr. Clain-Stefanelli prepared the analysis of the fineness of silver of this Quarter Shekel in the United States Naval Research Laboratory and published the results in the quarterly quoted above. He says that the copper content is ca. between 2 and 3%, the arsenic content around 1%. The fineness of silver, then, must be approximately 96 - 97%. The author of this paper prepared the analysis of 96 shekels from years 1 - 5 of the revolt. The analysis was based on the Archimedian principle, which was possible because none of those analyzed coins were corroded. The average fineness of silver of all these coins lies at 81%. Eighteen shekels and half shekels, 18¾% of the total amount, were struck in Year One. The coins were gathered from various sources, among others from the Werner Collection of the Reifenberg Collection in the Israel Museum, the British Museum, the collection in the Munzenkabinett des Berliner Staatsmuseums, the Rockefeller Museum, and private collections, as



Figure 3
Sketch of the off-centered stamping and the
corrupted legend.

that of Sassoon in Jerusalem. The range of the fineness of silver in these 18 shekels and half shekels of year one reaches a maximum point of 98% and a minimum point of 62.5%. The mid-point lies at 81%, and among these coins of year one there was only one with a fineness of silver of 98%, an-

other one with 97% and a third with 96%. All others were below 90%, so that a fineness of silver of 96-97% in a coin that was allegedly struck in Year 1 of the revolt seems a rather unusual occurrence as such. But one is even more astonished to learn that 1% of arsenic was also found in the

alloy of the Quarter Shekel. This is not just another strange fact about this coin. In 1857 Rauch published the results of a chemical analysis of 197 melted silver coins of Roman origin, ranging from the oldest denarii over denarii minted in the time of the Consuls and coins issued by Augustus to coins struck under the rule of Constantinus: in all of these he found nothing but silver and copper in the alloy, and never arsenic.¹² Although natural silver may be found with an arsenic content of up to 5%, minted silver coins have never been found to contain arsenic in the alloy as one can learn from the numerous tables prepared by Prof. Earle R. Caley.¹³ Arsenic content, on the other hand, has always been a permanent concomitant of coins made of bronze alloys.¹⁴

The various tables prepared by Prof. Caley contain 96 ancient silver coins, among others, of Parthian, Seleucid and Roman origin, altogether none of which have any arsenic content in alloys, containing everything else: gold, copper, tin lead, iron, nickel, zinc. On the other hand an analysis of 162 bronze coins and bronze objects invariably detected arsenic as one of its ingredients. To the author's question as to whether it was possible that ancient silver coins of high fineness contain even slight traces of arsenic, Prof. Caley, the world's outstanding expert for the analysis of ancient metals, answered in a letter dated February 28, 1972:

*"As to your question about the presence of arsenic in silver coins of high fineness, issued in the first century B.C.E. or the first century C.E., to my knowledge neither the absence nor the presence of arsenic has ever been reported in such coins. The reason for this is, I believe, that analysts had no reason to expect this element to be present..."*¹⁵

The author also asked Prof. Lawrence H. Cope for his opinion. In December 1970, during the symposium of the Royal Numismatical Society,

London, on *Methods of Chemical and Metallurgical Investigation of Ancient Coinage*, Prof. Cope gave a brilliant lecture on *The Metallurgical Analysis of Roman Imperial Silver and AES' Coinage* (cf. *Proceedings of the symposium, London 1972, pp. 3 - 48*), on a subject which includes the metallurgical analysis of coins minted during the First Jewish Revolt. Prof. Cope was so kind to answer in a letter from 8. 12. 72, which is partially quoted below:

"First, let me say, that I have not assayed any coins similar to the coins which you mention, so I can only look at the matter from theoretical considerations. Caley is certainly right concerning highly refined silver containing no arsenic, for the arsenic (if present) would certainly oxidise and volatilise in the cupellation process. But I would think that arsenic could be present in a debased alloy into which it was introduced unwittingly as a contaminant of the copper or any lead used for this alloy, because it is difficult to remove arsenic from copper, and a debased alloy is not cupelled but simply melted.

So, although we can not be certain whether the arsenic reported by Stefanelli is surface contamination or typical of the internal alloy, we can accept a metallurgical probability of it being there in the alloy. As much as 1% is difficult to explain, but I find that as much as 0.3% can be present in Roman Republican bronze, and all the Roman Imperial coinage alloys — including debased silvers — can be shown to contain at least traces of arsenic.

I would not think that Stefanelli's analysis shows that there is a very high copper content; but you could be right if the coin happened to be a silver-surface-enriched one, derived from a based copper silver alloy..."

Stefanelli himself assesses the reliability of his analytical method as follows: "We must expect surface enrichment."¹⁶ In the light of Prof. Cope's considerations, then, there can be no doubt that the arsenic content, which Stefanelli's analysis places at



Figure 2

Shekel (no. 1 & 2) and Half Shekel (no. 3 & 4) of Year One Leo Kadman's Catalogue³

1% cannot really be higher than 0.3%, and even this only if the coin is very much debased. It seems, however, that the coin is not debased at all, that, on the contrary, it has a very high silver content and a very low copper content. The 1% arsenic can only stem from the surface enrichment entailed by the X-Ray fluorescence method.

It is amazing then, that the analysis in the U. S. Naval Research Laboratory 1, 4 should have detected 1% of arsenic in a silver quarter shekel of allegedly fineness, two facts which obviously contradict each other. On the contrary, the arsenic seems to point to a very high copper content in the coin. (It will be shown below that in the case of the Quarter Shekel of Year Four no silver content has been shown at all.)

Our doubts increase as we consider the inadequate method used for the analysis, which, according to Clain-Stefanelli, is based on the analysis of X-Ray diffraction. With this method, if used correctly, *"the composition of surface metal may be closely estimated. It is not suitable for the determination of the average composition of ancient metal objects."*¹⁷ Thus Clain-Stefanelli's claim, that the *"average content of copper may be some-*

what higher (than 2-3%, as stated in the analysis), *since we must expect surface enrichment in terms of fine metals, the baser elements having been backed out from surface layer"* 1, 4 lacks all foundation and simply covers up the fact, that an X-Ray fluorescence analysis informs us only about the metallurgical composition of the surface, but never about the metallurgical composition of the entire coin. This is true when the method is applied correctly, as it will be shown in the following. In our case, however, the application was not correct.

The author claims that Stefanelli's method of analysis was inadequate and that the results obtained were altogether unsatisfactory. According to the author's experience with 81 shekels of the period of the Revolt, the coin should have a fineness of silver of 81-99%, a minimal copper content and only a trace of arsenic, if it really is a shekel of this period. This, however, seems rather dubious.

It was said above that the X-Ray fluorescence analysis informs us only about the metallurgical composition of the surface. Nevertheless it is widely believed that this method of analysis is preferable to almost all other methods. The method relying on the

Archimedian principle, for one, is only reliable for silver coins that are not corroded, the neutron analysis, on the other hand, is too expensive. The X-Ray fluorescence method, it is argued, damages the objects of analysis much less than the other methods. This reasoning, however, is erroneous. Caley says that this *"often classed as non-destructive method of analysis because it does not require a separate sample, (is in) its application to the examination of ancient objects . . . in practice more demanding to the surface of such objects than sampling one by means of small drills.* (P. E. Electron Microprobe Examination requires for examination an area of only $\frac{1}{2}$ M in diameter, i.e. 1 M = 1 millimicron = 0.0001mm!). *For satisfactory results it is necessary to have a plain surface of about a centimeter in diameter. To form this on an irregular rounded ancient object may require the grinding away of considerable metal . . ."*¹⁸

An observation of the coin (which at one time could be seen at the Israel Museum) shows clearly that by no means a third of the surface: about 1cm², has been ground away. Who would have dared to do this to a coin which, as a precious rarity, fetched an enormous price, as I've been told, that 1940/45 32,000 Swiss Fr. at an auction in Zurich. In order to find the actual fineness of silver of this Quarter Shekel of Year One, which to the eye of the observer does not seem to be corroded, there is no better, faster, cheaper and less damaging method than the Archimedian principle: weighing in distilled water, determination of specific gravity. The coefficient of mistakes is relatively small for this method, as Caley has shown by many examples.

An analysis of the Quarter Shekel of the Year Four based on the Archimedian principle, was undertaken on request of the author by Mr. G. K. Jenkins, Keeper of the Department of Coins and Medals in the British Museum in London.¹⁹ This analysis has shown no silver content in the coin whatsoever. However the coin was almost entirely corroded, but

even highly corroded coins, if analysed by this method, still show a fineness of silver of at least 8½%.²⁰ Otherwise no highly corroded ancient silver coins are known to the author from scientific publications. On the basis of this analysis, this Quarter Shekel of Year Four is very problematic. It does not surprise us that Hill, without knowing the results of the metallurgical analysis of this coin assesses as follows: *" . . . a quarter shekel unique but of not absolutely undoubtedly authenticity . . ."*²¹ In the light of the metallurgical analysis, this seems a rather mild formulation. The author wishes to express his doubt with regard to the authenticity of the Quarter Shekel of Year One as well. This doubt was motivated, first by economic historical considerations and secondly by an assessment of the metallurgical analysis. A third reason for doubt will become clear as we now turn to an important fact concerning the condition of this coin: it is obvious that the upper edge of the coin has once been perforated and was refilled only at a later stage.

III. The Perforation

Mr. Arye Kindler, Director of *Kadman Numismatic Museum*, Tel-Aviv, well versed in numismatics, archaeology and also trained in the art of the silversmith, informs us that the perforation seemingly was made in a later period, after the time this coin had been minted. Also Stefanelli's description in the *Israel Numismatic Bulletin*, 1964¹ is very detailed, he does not mention anywhere this outstanding fact of the perforation, which is so obvious from the photograph illustrating his description.²² The same has to be stated relative to Dr. Meshorer's publication. Clain-Stefanelli published for the first time this coin in a lecture read in Jerusalem, 1963, and accompanied it with slides, and stating that this rare coin belongs to a private collection in the United States, and after this, published this coin in the *Israel Numismatic Journal* 1964.¹ Dr. Meshorer published this coin in his book, *Jewish Coins of the Second Temple*

Period (Hebrew, 1966; English, 1967) approximately 3-4 years later and dedicated to this extraordinary coin no more than only twelve lines (page 88), not mentioning at all the strange fact of the perforation²³ and at another time Dr. Meshorer described the same coin in the catalogue of this book (Coin No. 150)¹, but also here he did not mention this perforation which is clearly visible in the illustration (No. 150)¹ of this catalogue²⁴, but only copying what Stefanelli published in 1964. How could it have been so overlooked, and no mention of this strange fact of the perforation by two so highly distinguished numismatists as Stefanelli and Meshorer? It is not understandable. *'A minori ad maius'*.

Dr. Meshorer knows very well the problem of Jewish perforated coins. Only ten pages after his twelve line description of the Quarter Shekel of Year One, Meshorer dedicates *two and a half pages* to the problem of the perforated coins of the Second, the Bar-Kochba Revolt of the Jews against Rome (p. 98-100). In these circumstances, not dedicating one or two words to the perforation of the Quarter Shekel of Year One, and not mentioning it at all, is an unsolved riddle, and Meshorer owes us the solution.

*"In the ancient world only a negligible proportion of all types of coins were perforated and used as ornaments or as charms. But this is not so with the denari of Bar-Kochba. Among them the number of perforated coins is out of all proportions to the unperforated ones if we exclude those, which hidden away during the Bar-Kochba war, were thus withdrawn from circulation and prevented from being turned into circulation . . ."*²⁵

As mentioned above, Meshorer dedicates two and a half pages to the perforated shekels of the Bar-Kochba era. In this context he quotes passages from the *Mishnah*²⁶ and the *Talmud Yerushalmi* (i.e. the *Jerusalem Talmud*).²⁷ From the passages it becomes clear that the coins were not only perforated in order to invalidate them,

but also to hang them "around a young girl's neck . . ."²⁸ Meshorer comes to the conclusion that these wonderful coins were used in this way, not only for their aesthetic value, but also for the sake of sentimental memories of former national autonomy and glory. If this is true for so many of the Bar-Kochba era one is tempted to think that it may hold also for this Quarter Shekel of Year One. Rather than as normal currency it may have served as a memorial coin or a medal by which the beginning of the revolt in 66 C.E. was to be remembered. In this way we may explain both its small size and the perforation. Nevertheless, Chain-Stefanelli and Meshorer should explain to their fellow numismatists why they chose to omit the important fact of the perforation.

IV. Image (Extreme off-centered) and Corrupt Legend²⁷

Chain-Stefanelli's statement that "the entire image is *slightly* (underlined by the author, A. B.-D.) off to centre to the left" is not true to fact. The statement must be challenged not only because it is very inaccurate, but also because it does not observe the rules of description for corrupted legends on coins which are legible only in part. As for its inaccuracy, let us consider the image of the Chalice. The coin has a diameter of 19mm. In a punctually centered coin, then, the middle of the image should have been 9.5mm. from either side of the rim. But in fact, it is 6mm. from the left and 13mm from the right side of the rim, in other words, it is two-thirds off-centered. "Slightly" off-centered, under these circumstances, seems to be a heavy understatement. One should rather say that it is *extremely* off-centered, in fact to such a degree as it has never been on the obverse of a Shekel or Half-Shekel of the First Jewish Revolt against Rome.

Pictures number 1 and 2, 3 and 4 in Leo Kadman's Catalogue, Table 1³ show the existence of "slightly off-

centered" Shekels and Half Shekels of Year One respectively, but a compromise will show that the off-centeredness in these pictures and the off-centeredness of the coin under discussion stand at a ratio of 1:3!

There is another astonishing fact to be considered: in all these slightly off-centered coins the entire legend has never been found to be damaged or illegible in any of its parts. Clain-Stefanelli deciphers the legend on the coin as "רבע השקל". But this is not legible, the legend of the coin being stamped over the rim and by this way corrupted.

"רבע" is the only word which is entirely legible. It means "a quarter", but here too, the last of the three letters, the "ע" is not stamped in the usual vertical manner, "◊", but it leans to be horizontal, as "◊" seen on the Shekels of the First Revolt.

The large part of the following word ל ק ש ה, meaning "of the Shekel", has disappeared over the rim in consequence of the extremely off-centered stamping of the coin. The first letter, "ה" meaning "H", is legible. It is stamped in old Hebrew scripture, "ח". Then there is the second letter, "ש" meaning "SH", stamped in old Hebrew scripture "W", but it is corrupted. Only the first third of the letter, is stamped in; the other two thirds of this letter do not exist on

the coin: "W". The third letter, ק meaning "K" is missing altogether. The fourth letter of the word HSHKL, "ל" meaning "L", which in old Hebrew scripture would be "ל" is corrupted on one side, and a large part of its upper edge is missing. Instead of "ל" we have only "ל". Moreover, this remaining part "ל" is not stamped where we would expect it, on the inner part of the coin and turning towards the Chalice. Instead, it is freely suspended in the air, extremely close (ca. 2mm.) to the Chalice. This sort of stamping has never been seen on any other Shekel or Half Shekel, where the "ל" is always stamped at a minimum distance of 4mm. or more. It is not intelligible why Clain-Stefanelli who dedicates a whole page to this coin, does not mention these extraordinary facts, or writes down the legend in the manner used by all archaeologists.

Only after this accurate description of the coin he could have stated his opinion according to which the meaning of the legend is "רבע השקל"

It is a pity, moreover, that Dr. Meshorer in his book *Jewish Coins in the Second Temple Period* only copied what Clain-Stefanelli had published without describing these very interesting details.

Conclusion

To the best of the author's knowledge, the Smithsonian Institute in

1. Year One: V. Clain-Stefanelli, A New Quarter Shekel of the First Year of the Jewish War, *Israel Numismatic Quarterly*, Vol. II, No. 1-2, Ya'akov Meshorer, *Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period*, (Tel-Aviv, 1967), p. 154, coin no. 150.
2. Year Four: George Francis Hill, *Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Palestine*, (London, 1914, p. 271, coin no. 21. Ya'akov Meshorer, op. cit., p. 157, coin no. 160.
3. Kadman, Leo, *The Coins of the Jewish War of 68-73 C.E., Corpus Nummorum Palaestiniensium, Second Series, Vol. III*, (Tel-Aviv—Jerusalem, 1960) p. 87.
4. Clain-Stefanelli, op. cit., p. 7.
5. Ya'akov Meshorer, op. cit., p. 154, no. 150.
6. Ya'akov Meshorer, op. cit., p. 89.
7. Ben-David, Arye, *Jerusalem and Tyros*, Basel and Tubingen, 1969, p. 3, 5-9, 36.
8. Ben-David, op. cit., 13-14.
9. Ben-David, op. cit., pp. 37-42.
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14. Earle R. Caley, *Analysis of Ancient Metals*, Oxford, London, New York, 1964, pp. 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121.
15. Letter from Prof. Earle R. Caley's vom 28.2.72. I am most grateful to Prof. Earle R. Caley for his kindness helping and advising the author.
16. V. Clain-Stefanelli, op. cit. (See footnote No. 1).
17. Earle R. Caley, *Analysis of Ancient Metals*, op. cit., p. 33.
18. Earle R. Caley, *Analysis of Ancient Metals*, pp. 66-67.

AINA WORKSHOP IN NEW YORK

HEARS ISRAEL EXECUTIVES

AND HEBREW COLLEGE HEAD

The largest meeting of AINA members since the historic first convention last May heard N. H. Hacohen, Acting Manager for the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation in New York and the Israel Press Attache A. Rappaport speak on political and numismatic news from Israel.

The major presentation was by Dr. Eli Grad, president of the *Hebrew College*, Brookline, Mass., who presented the story of the Jewish people through paper money symbols of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. The illustrated lecture was based on the paper money of Israel, of the concentration camp currency issued by the Nazis, and even in the paper money of the Confederacy, and of modern Canada.

Delays Expected

Mr. Hacohen reported on the work of the ICGAM during the *Yom Kippur War* where a skeleton crew has continued the Corporation's responsibilities. The war will result in some delays of planned shipments of the announced *Chanukah* and other coins. The mintage of the *Chanukah* coin will be 95,000 BU and 45,000 Proof, announced Mr. Hacohen. Mr. Y. Avni, who had planned earlier in the year to address the conference at the Grand Central Coin Convention will instead visit America during February 1974 and the May AINA Convention.

The final moments of the afternoon meeting featured the completion of the national "*Win a Trip to Israel*" program with the prize going to Sanford Brown of Mayfield, Ohio. Mr. Brown had already planned to be part of the AINA Tour, stated Mr. Morris Bram who presided, and he had already sent in a deposit. Now his trip is a gift from AINA.

Washington is not very interested in Jewish coins of the Revolt of the Jews. With a few exceptions - as the Shekel of Year Three, dedicated to the Smithsonian by General Eisenhower - it hardly collects or buys them. And yet, it must be asked why a coin allegedly so rare and precious as the Quarter Shekel of Year One was not bought by this famous and rich museum, whose curator had published it scientifically. Being sent from the United States to Switzerland, it was sold by auction in Zurich and finally came to Jerusalem.

This comprehensive discussion leads to the conclusion that in the assessment of an ancient coin one cannot merely and exclusively rely on the judgment of numismatics and numismatists who classify it according to its physical condition, manner of stamping, its symbols and its legends. One also has to take into consideration the point of view of the economic historians, perhaps more than the others, and similarly the metallurgical analysis was undertaken in an incorrect scientific manner. Last, but not least, to state in a correct way the condition of the stamping, in our case the extreme off-centered stamping and corrupted legend, stamped in an unconventional manner for Shekels and Half-Shekels of the First Revolt.

19. Mr. G. K. Jenkins, Keeper of the Department of Coins and Medals in the British Museum, London. I've the pleasure to express my thankfulness for his so kindly helping and analysing the silver fineness of the shekels of the First Revolt in the collection of the *London British Museum*.
20. Earle R. Caley, *Chemical Composition of Parthian Coins*, p. 51.
21. George Francis Hill, op. cit. Introduction, p. cii.
22. V. Clain-Stefanelli, op. cit. Plate VI, Figure 10¹.
23. Ya'akov Meshorer, op. cit., p. 88.
24. Ya'akov Meshorer, op. cit., Plate XIX, Figure 150.
25. Ya'akov Meshorer, op. cit., p. 98 ff.
26. Mishna Kelim XII:7.
27. *Talmud Yerushalmi*, Ma'aser Sheni L:2, 52d (on the top of the page).
28. I express my feelings of thankfulness to my boyhood friend Mordekhay M. Rosenthaler, Pardess Channa, who had been the first to state that this Quarter Shekel, instead of being "slightly off-centered" is most extremely off-centered, and the legend, in consequence, overlapping the rim, is corrupted. These are facts which no one before him stated or published, and which directed my attention to this extraordinary fact.

The ALPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. I am a collector who started about five years ago and who has bought the new issues as they came out directly from the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation. As a professional man, I have been fortunate enough to have had excess cash which I have put into the stock market. A few weeks ago, in drawing a financial statement, I was dismayed to see how much my stock portfolio has shrunk in value and amazed to see how much my Israel coins have gone up in value. I know nothing about the coins except I now, as a recent member of AINA, would like you to tell me which of the previous issues have the best chances of appreciating in value so that I may switch my investments from stocks to coins. Dr. K. L., Philadelphia, Pa.

A. The distressing sentence in your letter is "I know nothing about coins". Making money in the investment of coins of Israel is INCIDENTAL and an added bonus for the collecting of Israel's coins. I sincerely hope that the pamphlets which were issued with each of the coins that you received from the ICMGC were retained by you so that you might read and retain the background knowledge which was detailed so that you might learn WHY the coin was issued. I am positive, that nowhere in the brochure did it say "Buy this coin; its price will triple in a year."

Try as I might, I find it difficult to convince the beginner that he should be collecting coins for their historical value rather than accumulating for the sake of their rarity. As the neophyte collector advances in his study, he will be able to appreciate and use with judgment (even for profit) the knowl-

edge he has gained from books such as Haffner, Meshorer and publications such as *THE SHEKEL*. May I suggest that you read the *Statement of Purpose* of AINA that appears in the front pages of each issue of *THE SHEKEL*. We try to encourage in the beginner, a taste for numismatic knowledge and to discourage the mania for rare and curious, but uninteresting and worthless pieces of metal which are issued commercially just because there exists a seemingly endless demand for Israel (?) material. The only justification for an individual, in my opinion, to speculate in Israel's coins, is so that he might profit in a few pieces to purchase a coin which he otherwise could not afford. Leave the dealing to the dealers. Concentrate on making money in your profession.

Q. I recently received my 25th Anniversary Proof Coins and am extremely pleased with it. However, soon after I received it, my pet dog decided to make a meal of my coin. While he fortunately did not injure the coin, he did eat quite a bit out of the holder that it was packaged in. I therefore wonder if it would be possible to purchase or in some way obtain another case for my coin. I thank you for any help that you can give me in this matter. iSncerely,

C. S., San Jose, Calif.

A. I cannot remember when I have been so touched by a request. My own holder is on its way to you—air mail too.

(Editor's Note—Ed, my dog did a no-no on my brochures. Would you help clean them up for me.)

MEDALS OF ISRAELI BANKS

by Dov Genachowski

Banks, as is well known even to those of us for whom "money" is just a numismatic term, deal with money in its various forms. Sometimes, however, banks also issue medals. A series of Banks' medals can already be identified in Israeli numismatics. As most of these medals were issued in limited quantities and under strict control as to distribution, usually for special occasions, they are rather difficult to obtain. Rarely do they appear on the market.

Place of honor belongs to the *Bank of Israel*, Israel's central bank. This is so not just because it issues all coinage and currency of the country, nor just because it regulates the banking system — but, in our present context, mainly because of the *number* of medals issued by it.

Having opened its doors for business on December 1, 1954, the *Bank* celebrated its tenth anniversary in 1964. Numismatically, this was honored by the issue of the *Bank of Israel* IL. 50 gold coin — probably the rarest of Israel's gold coins, certainly the most expensive today. Internally, within the *Bank*, the date was marked by the issue of a small — 30 mm. — cupro-nickel medal (*fig. 1*). Its obverse is the same as the gold coin's; the reverse shows the Hebrew and civil dates, "715 - 725 1954 - 1964".



It was distributed to the Staff of the Bank by the then Governor, Mr. D. Horowitz, in a small plastic case bearing on the outside the *State Emblem* and the inscription "*Bank of Israel*". Inside there is a card insert which reads "*Upon the completion of a decade of the Bank of Israel (1.12.1954 — 1.12.1964) please accept this present as token of friendship in work at the Bank. David Horowitz. Jerusalem, 26 Kislev 5725 (1.12.1964)*" — all in Hebrew. The Governor's name appears in facsimile of his signature. Mintage, by Kretchmer's of Jerusalem, was 497 pieces.



In 1971, another medal was struck by the *Bank* for representation purposes. It was issued in bronze—59mm. —and silver—45mm. (*fig. 2*). The obverse shows the same panorama of Jerusalem used on the Jerusalem coins, while the reverse, conceived by the author, bears six motives of ancient coins which re-appear on Israel's present day coins. "*Jerusalem*" in Hebrew and English appear on the obverse; "*Bank of Israel*" in both languages on the reverse. Used solely for official presentation, these medals are often engraved with the recipient's name and the date. Executed for the *Bank* by the *Israel Government Coin and Medal Corp.* and minted by Kretchmer's Quantities—Bronze 1000, Silver 250.



Two other medals of the *Bank of Israel* use the obverse of the Eilat coin, while the reverse bears one inscription for pensioners of the Bank (*"Presented by the Bank of Israel in recognition of service, in appreciation and gratitude"* and the recipients's name engraved) (fig. 3), and with the more general inscription (*"Presented by the Bank of Israel in thanks for your service"*, again with the name engraved). The year appears on the reverse as well. The Eilat obverse was used apparently because these medals were instituted in 1967, the year of issue of that coin.

Perhaps the idea was to change the obverse annually, but this was not done. *Bank of Israel* pensioners receive this medal upon leaving the Bank's service, together with the current *Independence Day* coin, in a box which also contains a scroll of appreciation. The other type of the same medal, with the shorter inscription, was issued persons not on the Bank's Staff, as a *"thank you"* token for services rendered it. Both types lack, of course, the incuse rim inscription, being marked instead with "925" to signify sterling silver content. Minted by Kretchmer's. Quantities unknown.



Still in the public sector, the next medal was issued by the *Industrial Development Bank of Israel Ltd.*, "I.D.-

B.I." for short (fig. 4). I.D.B.I. is Israel's largest development bank, wielding assets of over IL. 2,000 millions. It is owned by the Government, some commercial banks and private investors in Israel and abroad. The medal, in bronze, 45mm., was issued in 1967 to mark the *Bank's* first decade. The obverse shows the *Bank's* name in Hebrew and English with designs of industrial activity. The reverse shows a large figure "10", the "0" forming a cog-wheel with part of the rim, the inscription *"Ten Years of Activity"* in Hebrew and English and the dates in both calendars. Mint and quantity unknown.

"Tefahoth" Israel Mortgage Bank Ltd. is Israel's largest mortgage bank, whose pattern of ownership is rather similar to that of I.D.B.I. It was located in Tel Aviv, the commercial center of the country. Following the *Six Day War*, however, the Bank's Director General, Mr. Moshe Mann, decided to move headquarters to Jerusalem. Perhaps he was influenced by being a sixth-generation native of Israel's capital. The new building in Jerusalem was completed speedily, and the *Bank* officially started business there in the fall of 1968. A medal (fig. 5) was issued to mark the move. Bronze, 45mm. Obverse shows the *Bank's* building on Queen Helena Street in Jerusalem, Reverse shows the Jerusalem Citadel (commonly called *"Tower of David"*) and the Hebrew inscription *"Day of Move to the Capital. 17 Ellul 5728"*. Mint and quantity unknown.



For some reason, none of Israel's "Big Three" banks ever issued a medal. By some coincidence, two of these, *Bank Leumi le-Israel* and *Israel Dis-*

count Bank, issued souvenir—paperweight and note-pad holder, respectively—which incorporate in their design regular half-pound coins. Not copies—the real coins embedded in the article, but this is a different story.

So we have two commercial banks to deal with. *Exchange National Bank of Chicago*, which proudly calls itself “the first American Bank in Israel”, started operations in Israel in 1970. To mark the occasion, a medal (fig. 6) was struck by the IGCM Corp. for the Bank in bronze, silver and gold, all in 59mm. The two latter in very small quantities. The Obverse shows the American flag with Israel’s Menorah, with the Bank’s name and “title” in Hebrew and the year 5730. The reverse repeats the same in English, the the Bank’s emblem.

In 1973, when the Bank opened its branch in Jerusalem, special presentation sets of these medals were presented by its President, S. W. Sax, to Mrs. Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel, and Mr. Pinhas Sapir, Minister



Jerusalem (at war)
October 17, 1973

Dear Morris,

This was written actually while running the night shift in a hospital . . . there's a war on. Hope quality (of writing) did not suffer. Pics not so good as my photographer is somewhere in the Sinai.

Regards and best wishes.

Dov

Editor's Note: Dov Genachowski, well known to SHEKEL readers is a member of the staff of the Bank of Israel and by day is an administrator. His wartime duties in addition are at a Jerusalem hospital.



of Finance, as well as to other notables. Minted by Kretchmer's, quantities unknown.

Last comes *United Mizrahi Bank Ltd.*, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1973 by the issue of a medal in bronze and silver (fig. 7). The *Mizrahi Bank* was founded in 1923. Some years ago it was merged with the *Hapoel-Hamizrahi Bank*, another bank belonging to the same movement whose political arm is the National Religious Party, to form the *United Mizrahi Bank*. Two versions of the bronze medal exist. The obverse, common to all, uses the figure “50”, the Bank's emblem and name, as well as the dates in both Hebrew and English, plus the Hebrew slogan “50 years of mutual trust”.



The first type of reverse used the symbol created for Israel's 25th anniversary celebration, with the inscription “the 25th Independence Day” in both languages. This, however, was rejected, either because of the mention of the “day” or for want of more specific motives. It is shown (fig. 8). The final form shows on the reverse the Knesseth Menorah with a “Tallith” (prayer shawl) and the inscription “Israel's 25th Anniversary” in Hebrew and English. The silver medal exists

only in the final form. All measure 59mm. Careful observers can see the engraver name on the right of the reverse, and the designer's hidden in the lower left-hand branch of the Menorah. Final version medals are numbered on the rim. Minted by the Shekel Co. of Tel Aviv. Quantities—Bronze (final version) 3,000; Silver (of 999 content)—150. Only few are known to exist of the rejected bronze type.

This, for the time being, is the end of the series, to the author's knowledge. Remarks and additions by readers will be welcomed.

HANNUKAH SILVER COIN ANNOUNCED; FEATURES BABYLONIAN MENORAH

See Back Cover Photos

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation announced in Jerusalem the release of the 1973 Hanukkah silver coin, commemorating the Festival of Lights. It is the second series bearing the nominal value of IL 5. Issued by the Bank of Israel in both brilliant uncirculated and proof condition, it was struck by the Government Mint in Jerusalem. The BU is mintmarked with the Star of David, while the proof coin bears the Hebrew letter 'mem'.

The face value of the new Hanukkah coin is five Israel Lirat; metal: silver 750; size: 34mm in diameter. The obverse of the coin depicts an 18th-century Hanukkah menorah originating from Babylonia (Iraq-Syria) and exhibited at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Below, the inscription in Hebrew: "*Hanukkah lamp from Babylonia, 18th century*". The reverse carries in the center the face value 5 Lirat. The inscription in Hebrew 'Lirat', '5734-1973' and in Hebrew, English and Arabic the word 'Israel'. Mintage figures are: BU — 95,000, Proof — 45,000.

AINA MEMBER WINS BEST-IN-SHOW IN PHILADELPHIA

Dr. Edwin Mendelsohn, AINA Life Member #22 of the Philadelphia area won the *Best in Show* award at the September convention of the Great Eastern Numismatic Association held at the Sheraton in Philadelphia. His exhibit, *Ancient Coins of the Jews*, was honored with the "*Best in Show*" Award.

Dr. Mendelsohn, long a student of Jewish history started his numismatic collection in 1949 by purchasing stamps—with pictures of coins on them, following a long talk with a collector-patient. He soon graduated to "the real thing".

Today his collection of over 300 ancient coins covers the history of the Jewish world from 538 BCE to 138 CE, obtaining his coins from catalogues, auctions, and dealers who were able to assist him to locate choice items. The coins range in size from 5/16-inch to 1 1/2-inches in diameter, revealed Dr. Mendelsohn in a story telling of his hobby interest which appeared in *The Jewish Times*, a community newspaper of Pennsylvania.

The subject matter covered by the total coin collection cover announcements of the deaths of kings, the arrival of a new king, a military victory, land annexation, the revolts of the Jews against the Romans, etc.



Left to right: Morris Bram, President of AINA, congratulates Dr. Edwin Mendelsohn and his wife, Etta, following the award for *Best in Show* at the Great Eastern Numismatic Convention in Philadelphia.

A NOTED COLLECTOR REVEALS HIS

by Arnold Spaer,

Jerusalem

My subject today is to tell you a little about the possibilities of coin collecting in Israel since I think they are very much different than those you find here in the States. I am speaking of the collecting of ancient coins, not modern coins, much closer to the sources.

I shall not tell you about those fortunate collectors in Israel who manage on a Saturday to drive out to the beach of Caesaria and to walk there for three or four hours in order to come back with a pocket full of coins. There are such fortunate people with x-ray eyes who achieve these results.

I don't think I ever *found* a coin in over 40 years of collecting. My friend, Yaakov Meshorer, on the other hand, is wonderful in that he found a Athenian Archaic Tetradrachm in Jerusalem. Now it's in the *Israel Museum*; in any event, he did not keep it. Apart from such fortunate people there are, particularly since 1967, many, many opportunities for building a collection in our country. After 1967 there was the first contact with the Arab dealers on the West Bank who had accumulated large stocks of coins—but no customers. There were then occasions to make what I call "tourist purchases" as evidently no part of the population in Jordanian Jerusalem or Jordanian Palestine collected coins. I don't think there is a single coin collector there.

So when Israelis descended on that part of the country, there was lots to be had. And then that was followed by the illicit digging in areas on the West Bank, particularly in areas which had been inaccessible as they had been too close to the original border. For instance there was the western part of the Hebron South district which I understand is considered pure "Bar Kochba" country, if I may call it that. Apparently it was in an area densely populated by Jews at the time of the Bar Kochba War. In 1967 we had a frontier running along through the western foothills of the area. Next to the front on each side, there were considerable "no man's land" mine fields, barbed-wire, and so on. When these barriers came down, the Arabs (and one must grant them they have a lot of initiative) started digging in these areas which had been areas practically untrodden for almost 20 years.

The results were astonishing! Within the three years after the war, and I have really no explanation for it, there was a glut of hoards of Jewish coins. There were, in the beginning, many hoards of the Bar Kochba period, and we were getting some rarities which up to then had been considered unique. I suppose you all know the denarius of the *Year One of Eleazar Hachohen*. There had been one coin in the *Vatican* (the coin that appears in Mesh-

OF ANCIENT COINS

SECRETS

orer, I think) and it was the only one known. Now at least 3 or 4 pieces of this coin appeared in the market. The price was stiff, but of course it was a great attraction. Then, there were

EXCERPTS from a lecture by Mr. ARNOLD SPAER at the I.N.S. of New York meeting, September 10th, 1973.



Mr. Spaer, a prominent attorney in Jerusalem, has been collecting coins since he was nine years old. For the past 38 years he has shown special interest in Seleucid, Phoenician and Crusader coinage. Mr. Spaer is a member and a former Secretary of the Israel Numismatic Society, F.R.N.S., member S.N.F., Swiss Numismatic Society and A.N.S. Readers of 'Numismatic Literature' published by A.N.S. will recognize Arnold Spaer as the reviewer for all new numismatic literature published in the Middle East.

several pieces of the *Bar Kochba Tetrachm Year One* which until then, I think, was known in something around ten pieces. I had the good fortune of buying one of these pieces. It had the added distinction in that in the legend, *Shnat Achat* and so on, the engraver didn't find room for the top of the word *Shnat* so it's only "*Shan*" *Achat* and so on. These are, of course, great pleasures should you come across such noble things. There were huge quantities of Bar Kochba dinaria and fortunately, and I stress that from the numismatic point of view, none of these hoards were recovered intact.

Also, of course, nobody knows exactly where they were found and in what context. It has especially reached such a degree that in these Bar Kochba coins, finds, apparently there are also large quantities of Roman coins. Both Roman denari and Tetrachms of the Syrian provincial mint of Antioch, which are the underlying type of the Bar Kochba tetrachms. These coins were separated by the finders (or the dealers who purchased them) and were sold separately. Scientifically this was a great blemish but still it was a wonderful harvest. Prices at that time went down; and in the meantime they have gone up again, unfortunately.

The Second Revolt findings were from 1967 to 1970 and we really had

the feeling that hoards were found according to the demands of the market. There was a funny situation that when the Jews came, and the Jews of course first and foremost wanted these Jewish coins, Jewish coins were found. And there was no monkey business there. It was a coincidence and is best explained by the fact that you have access here to areas which in that (ancient) time were Jewish populated and had been closed, as I mentioned before, for twenty years. Now, at the same time, in smaller quantities, hoards of the First Revolt also came on the market. I have tried over these years to make a list of those lots which I saw in shops being offered together. They are certainly not complete but I think there were at least 20 lots of shekel hoards which were found during these five years! Some of them I succeeded in noting together with other coins from price in the hoard.

Now what were those other coins? Nothing sensational. They were Tetradrachms of Antioch and there were also Tyrian shekels and half shekels. It is quite clear from the content of some of these hoards that the series of the Tyrian shekels were struck during the outbreak of the First Jewish revolt is incorrect because for the last ten years before the Revolt you have the Antiochean silver. In other words, it is quite clear that we were suppressed beneath the fire and we placed it by the provincial issues of inferior silver such as Antioch.

Now, only recently there has apparently been a very large hoard of shekels which is rumored to improve in the late years. I have seen one Year Four. There are numerous years, One; there were very numerous Years Two or Three; but again exact facts are uncertain. The habit is to say if you ask a man "now where does this come from?", he will tell you it was found in the South when in fact it was found in the North, and vice-versa. This is understandable self-interest.

Nobody wants to disclose his source

and nobody wants to get involved with the Department of Antiquities. We also have other hoards. There were some hoards of Askelon coins, City coins, also a hoard of silver struck in Askelon at the end of this Selucian period, (which was my period) and there were minor hoards. There were some late Roman hoards.

There was a huge hoard apparently from the northern Sinai or the Gaza Strip of late Roman issue. They were very considerably concealed in that they were all covered by the sixth volume of old material coinage. The new volume Southerland deals with the period 292 to 312. All the coins fit exactly to that period, and there are apparently not less than 1200-1400 pieces, all covering the span of only 20 years.

Now we have a very interesting development. Arab dealers, discovering that Israeli collectors were willing to buy and willing to pay, and on the other hand were not as insistent as European purchasers and American purchasers on condition, started to import from the neighboring Arab countries considerable quantities of coins, sometimes very interesting but usually in inferior condition. In other words, if there is a find or lot of coins in Syria or in Lebanon or in Jordan or in Iraq, first choice are the beautiful pieces, not rare but beautiful, go to Beirut, and from Beirut to Switzerland and from Switzerland to you. I don't have to tell you how that affects the price. Now the less beautiful pieces, which may often include rare pieces, but chisel marked, worn, not clearly legible, these come to Israel.

And here you have the absurd developments which illustrates how silly politics can get. You know that the border between Jordan and Israel is open for the Arabs. So in the beginning, these coins, mainly from Jordan, just crossed the bridges and they were brought to the Arab part of Palestine, and from there to the Israeli purchasers. I understand the export of antiquities from Jordan is forbidden

MOUNT GERIZIM ON A ROMAN COIN Second Century

At the foot of Mount Gerizim is a street lined with pillars from which two ways lead up the mount. The street to the left is made of steps. A Roman temple stands on the top of the hill. Around the edge the Greek inscription reads: Of Neapolis, Syria-Pal(estina): year 87. The era of Neapolis started in 72 A.D. The year 87 corresponds to 159 A.D.



but apparently that obstacle could be overcome. But then Jordan had finally been depleted. It is not such a rich country, apparently also, few antiquities are deposited there. The Arab dealers looked further afield to Syria; to Lebanon; and even came to the south of Turkey. In classic times, all these centers brought a huge amount of coins. So these coins were soon coming over the Turkish-Syrian border, then south into Jordan and to Israel. There was a crisis. King Hussein, as you know, liquidated terrorist movement in his country; Syria as a reprisal, closed the border between Jordan and Israel. In this situation, Arab dealers in Palestine could leave these self-controlled areas and enter Jordan; but they could not continue into the Syrian sisterland to get the coins there. They could not even fly from Amman to Beirut because you then have to overfly Syria. The only plane, the only airline which the Syrians could use to overfly Syria from Amman to Beirut was *Aeroflot*, the Russian line. All this is not numismatics, but it gives you an insight into the curiosities we have. *Aeroflot* was sold out for three months ahead because of that.

Then the situation was solved in a very simple manner. Arab dealers didn't cross to Jordan; they went to the Tel Aviv airport, took a plane to Cyprus, and from there proceeded to Beirut. There they got all they needed because Beirut, Syria and Iraq was open. The goods were taken back to Cyprus and in this way came to Israel.

That was the situation as it was

until a few months ago and I understand the border between Jordan and Syria is about to be opened again which should facilitate collections.

Here again I can give you an example of a very large hoard found recently in Iraq. It was a hoard of silver of the time of about Alexander the Great. It included imitations of Athenian Tetradrachms with all kinds of variations. There are coins with Athena to the left instead of to the right and so on and so forth in barbaric style. As usual the weight is completely exact like the Athenian issues themselves. Some of these coins don't bear the inscription after barbaric Aramaic inscriptions in the name of Mazacus who felt he was Satrap appointed by Alexander the Great shortly after conquering Mesopotamia and Babylon.

When does the Babylonia lines taper? Early Alexander of the mint of Babylon and, that was of course the exciting part. There are several Alexander Tetradrachms and several (I don't know whether you know the type) there is a type of Alexander Tetradrachms from the East where he is seen fighting Korus the Indian king, on elephant with Alexander on horseback opposite him. This is a famous coin, a tetradrachm weighing in the approximately 80 grams. These silver coins are very substantial and until now I think two or three were known. This hoard apparently contained another four or five. And then the usual

type of Alexander Tetradrachm Tiatus on the obverse and Zeus and the eagle was on the reverse from the mint of Babylon.

Now here happened exactly as I told you before. The good pieces went to Switzerland where unfortunately, the prices are appropriate to present European market levels. The chisel-mark coins came from Beirut to Nablus, to a village next to Nablus, and then on to Jerusalem, and then sold there. Three of these Narcinain imitation types make legend of Masacus. These of course makes them rare. That the dealers did not realize; they saw the arm and Athena, and that's that; who bothers to read what it says. So these, instead of being sent on to Switzerland, fortunately came to us. We were able to buy them, but again you have this division. Beauty goes abroad; the rest reaches us. But we are quite satisfied with this situation as it is.

There is only one other aspect of collecting coins, which I would like to mention and that is: what *types* of coins do we get? Here you have some strange phenomena. I shall not speak about coins in the period before Alexander which had been found in quite some quantities in the Gaza area. But if you divide the periods from Alexander onwards, you find very peculiar symptoms. For instance, the Ptolomies who ruled the country from the death of Alexander more or less until 200 B.C., left an enormous amount of coins. This is a period of less than 120 years. We get them in quantities but here I am talking mainly about copper of course. But also in silver and we get them also from periods after the Ptolomaic period. After the Ptolomaic came the Selucids who stayed with us, roughly speaking, for another 100 years. Maybe a little less in the center of the country after the Maccabean uprising. It was still a substantial period. We get from them, far fewer coins than during their more or less equivalent but earlier period of the Ptolomies. It is symptom for which I

cannot offer any explanation. Then you have the Hasmonaim Coinage as shown by the prutot of Jannaeus which you no doubt have come across.

You do not get, and that again is common knowledge, early Roman silver or early Roman copper. That starts to come only in spite of the Roman conquest from approximately the time of Trajan. The first 12 Caesars are extremely rare. You hardly get, at least I have never discovered, a late Roman silver coin in Israel, in the market. We get them in Europe; we get them in France; we get them in Italy; and we get them in to some extent in Eastern Europe. Apparently in that area of the eastern Mediterranean they hardly circulated or perhaps they are all hoarding, though I can't see why that should happen in the east and not in the west.

I can't tell you anything about Islamic coins. I don't know anything about them but from 1099 we had a crusader Kingdom which lasted for almost 200 years. It is astonishing how few of the coins struck by that kingdom are found. No proportion to the time, no proportion to the fact that they are comparatively recent, and what is most surprising, they are almost rarer than some European issues of the same period. In other words, during the Crusades you have an influx of silver coins or Byzantine coins from Europe and they exceed in quantity the locally struck coins of like metals.

Lately there has been a suggestion that some of these coins of Italian cities like Lucca and so on were actually struck in Palestine by the crusaders because they were the accepted coins of the times. That has not been proved; it is a matter for future research.

I made these last remarks to show how much still remains to be done in research and I shall not call it Israeli Numismatics but Palestinian Numismatics because it covers a time span of almost 1500 years. It ought to be elementary but it is difficult to see why coins of 300 B.C. should be more common than coins of 1200 A.D.

RETROGRADE INSCRIPTIONS ON ANCIENT JEWISH COINS

by Mel Wacks

A clear pattern emerges from the ancient Judaeen coins containing retrograde (mirror-imaged) inscriptions—they were all produced in times of great stress, when expediency took preference over workmanship. The published examples are as follows:

Antigonus Mattathias (the last Maccabee, 40-37 BCE) — *Reif.* 23(?), *Reif.* 25, *BMC* 12-15

First Revolt (next to last year, 69/70 CE) — *Reif.* 6a

Second Revolt (first year, 132/133 CE) — *Reif.* 189a, *Mesh.* 172A (third year(?) 134/135 CE) — *Mesh.* 211C, *Spijk.* 11, 15-20, 31, 33-38

All of these coins have one side retrograde, one side normal.

The ancient coin-die designer had to carve the die directly in the negative so that the coins produced would be in the positive. Of course if the die maker was not paying attention he might engrave the die in the positive, and therefore all coins produced from that die would have the images and legends reversed. Such errors would not necessarily upset the populace, many of whom were illiterate. They depended upon the size and design of the coin to indicate the denomination.

The ancient Hebrew lettering used on the coins was already antiquated when they were issued. The Bar Kochba letters were written in modern square Hebrew, Aramaic and even in Greek.

Let's examine the circumstances under which these retrograde coins were minted.

Antigonus Mattathias' three stormy years as both high priest and king of Judaea started with the plundering of the country by the Parthians and ended with his beheading by the Romans. The forces of Mark Anthony, who had allied himself with Herod, finally took Jerusalem after a three month siege. These events are described by Meschorer:

"With the commencement of the siege of Jerusalem by Herod in 37 BCE, Mattathias saw his kingdom slipping increasingly from his control. During the final months preceding the fall of Jerusalem, Mattathias issued as it were a proclamation to the city's inhabitants calling on them to make every possible sacrifice in defense of the Temple, the very soul of the nation, to prevent its falling into the hands of strangers—that is the Romans and Herod. This 'proclamation' consisted of a coin on which the seven-branched candlestick of the Temple appears for the first time in Jewish art and the one and only occasion on a coin."

This emergency coin is the famous *Reifenberg* 23, where it is listed with a fragmented retrograde inscription. Under the circumstances under which it was issued it is no wonder that the engraver made an error!

There are also other small bronze coins of Mattathias with retrograde Hebrew inscriptions (*Reif.* 25) and several large bronzes with the Greek legend (BACINEΛ·ANTIΓNOY=King Antigonus) reversed (*BMC* 12-15).

During the fourth year (69/70 CE) of the First Revolt, according to Leo Kadman, "an acute shortage of silver for minting bullion developed in Jeru-



Newly discovered denarius of Bar Kochba Revolt . . . with retrograde inscription. Photo by Dr. E. Rubin

salem, caused mainly by the blockade of the city by the Roman army, which had already conquered almost the entire country. Consequently, the Jewish authorities had no alternative but to strike half and quarter shekels (and a smaller denominationless piece) of bronze. These coins were emergency or war money." Also in the fourth year there was intense fighting between Jewish factions within Jerusalem.

It was in these closing months of the Revolt that the small denominationless bronze was issued, both with normal (Reif. 6) and retrograde (Reif. 6a) inscription.

Following the disastrous First Revolt Jewish coins were not issued for more than 60 years, when the Second Revolt broke out. There are relatively rare bronzes and silver denarii with the name of Eleazar the Priest produced in the first year of the Bar Kochba rebellion. It is probable that this Eleazar was associated with the reinstitution of the Temple service which Bar Kochba, being a layman was not allowed to perform.

The Eleazar coins were probably among the first minted during the Second Revolt. Not surprisingly on some of the bronzes (Reif. 189a) the Hebrew inscription is retrograde — after all, no Jew had created a coin for two generations!

There is also a Year One medium bronze (Mesh. 172A) with the legend SHIMEON (Bar Kochba's given name) in retrograde and a crudely formed lyre—obviously produced by an inexperienced hand.

The dateless coins of Bar Kochba have been proven by die linkages to have been issued in the third and final year of the Revolt. There are several examples of dateless bronze coins done in crude style (i.e. Mesh. 199A, 209B), including a group of so-called "Barbaric" coins recently published by the late Augusto Spijkerman, many of which have retrograde and/or muddled inscriptions. One of these 'Barbaric' bronzes with a retrograde inscription is catalogued as Mesh. 211C.

However, no silver Bar Kochba coin with a retrograde inscription has previously been published. A denarius has now been discovered which has crude renderings of an elongated lyre (similar to Mesh. 209B) and the almond wreath; it has a distorted retrograde inscription on one side and a distorted legend on the other.

The obverse should read $\uparrow\text{ו} \text{שׁימון}$ (Shimeon). The coin illustrated on the right does not have a retrograde inscription, but it is muddled reading $\uparrow\text{ו} \text{שׁימנו}$ (Shimeno). On the newly discovered specimen the legend is retrograde and muddled, reading $\text{ו} \text{ל} \text{ח} \text{ר} \text{ו} \text{ת}$ (Shimneo).

The reverse legend around the crude lyre is $\text{ו} \text{ל} \text{ח} \text{ר} \text{ו} \text{ת} \text{ו} \text{ל} \text{ח} \text{ר} \text{ו} \text{ת}$ a very distorted rendering of *LeCheROT YeROShLaM* (For the Freedom of Jerusalem).

According to Meshorer, the silver coins of Bar Kochba are seldom found in the extremely crude style of the bronzes. This unique retrograde den-



Muddled inscription on reverse of denarius of Bar Kochba Revolt.

arius must be considered a major discovery of a heretofore unknown Second Revolt die. It was undoubtedly produced in the final days of the doomed Bar Kochba uprising and must have been one of the last ancient Jewish coins minted. Not until more than 18 Centuries later was another coin to be produced by a Jewish State!

Addendum

The "Barbaric" bronzes of Bar Kochba published by Spijkerman (52 pieces) include coins inscribed "Year 1", "Year 2", and undated (Year 3). However, these attributions are difficult because of the greatly muddled nature of the inscriptions—with inverted letters, missing letters, extra letters, retrograde letters, etc.

Future study should determine whether these crudest of all ancient Judaean coins were actually issued in the years indicated on the coins, or whether these coins were just copied from earlier issues and were actually minted in the closing months of the Revolt.

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NEW ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR 1974

Mr. Yitzhak Avni, the Director General of the IGCAM in Jerusalem, announced the following details of numismatic items to be issued in the coming months.

HANUKKA COIN 1973

Following the great success of last year's Russian Lamp Hanukka Coin, the second silver Hanukka coin in the series, bearing the nominal value of IL 5 will be issued by the Bank of Israel in December 1973 in two varieties: brilliant uncirculated and proof. The motif is an Iraqi/Syrian Lamp of the 18th century, exhibited at the *Israel Museum* in Jerusalem. Mintage figures and other details will be announced later.

PIDYON HABEN COIN 1974

The coin to be issued in December 1973 will bear the same motif that was first introduced in 1972. It will show a new date and there will be a slight change on the obverse. The nominal value will be IL 10.

ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN INTERNATION PIANO MASTER COMPETITION 1973

In December 1973 the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition will be held in Jerusalem. With 45 competitors from many countries this will undoubtedly be one of the world's most fascinating musical events. The competition will be held under the patronage of His Excellency the President of the State of Israel, Professor E. Katzir, and the Honorary President of the event is the Great Master himself, Arthur Rubinstein. To commemorate this historic musical competition the IGCAM has decided to strike a state medal which will be offered to subscribers and collectors throughout the world.

SUBJECT MATTER

AINA ACTIVITIES

- The AINA Forum (April 28, 1968) by Nathan R. Goldman Vol. I, No. 2
 AINA's First Convention: 1973 (from Coin World) Vol. VI, No. 2
 AINA's First Israel Study Tour by Wilma Thompson Vol. II, No. 1
 AINA's First Trip to Israel—Extras by Nathan R. Goldman Vol. I, No. 4
 AINA's First Numismatic Tour by Nathan Sobel Vol. II, No. 2, 3
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 AINA's Third Israel Study Tour; First Day Memoir by Alan Weinberg Vol. IV, No. 2
 AINA's Fourth Annual Study Tour Vol. V, No. 2

ANCIENT COINS

- Aelia Capitolina (Judaean Jottings by Mel Wacks) Vol. I, No. 3
 Ancient Coin Cache with 606-610 AD Coins Vol. V, No. 2
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TECHNION'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

In December of 1973 the *Technion* in Haifa (Israel's Institute of Technology) will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. As Israel takes special pride in this institute of higher learning whose graduates have contributed to all facets of the State's existence and development, it was decided to strike a special state medal to commemorate its *Golden Jubilee*. A public Committee, appointed by the Prime Minister, will determine the design, motif, metal, etc. The medal will be offered to the public early in 1974.

OFFICIAL MINT SET 1974

The IGCNC has issued annually since 1963 (with the exception of 1964), a mint set comprising all 6 coins currently in circulation, i.e. 1, 5, 10, 25 *agorot*, $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 *lira*. Celebrating Israel's 25th Anniversary, this set was issued in cupro-nickel, although the 25, 10 and 5 *agorot* coins in circulation are in a bronze color.

In view of the great success of this silver-like color set, all in mint condition, the *Bank of Israel* decided to continue this issue for 1974. The IGCNC emphasized that these mint coins will only be obtained in a set, of which approximately 100,000 will be packaged. All coins will bear a tiny *star of David*, which is the recognized mint-mark of the Government Mint in Jerusalem. It is anticipated that distribution on a limited basis will begin in February or March of 1974.

26th INDEPENDENCE DAY 1974

The forthcoming *Independence Day* coin, to be issued by the *Bank of Israel* in *BU* and *Proof* condition, will again be in sterling silver, with a nominal value of IL 10. This commemorative coin will be dedicated to 'the revival of the Hebrew Language', a process started by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, a century ago.



NEW YEAR TOKEN

The annual New Year token issued by the Corporation is sent to all subscribers complimentary. It will bear on its obverse the official emblem of Israel's 25th Anniversary. The token should reach subscribers not later than December 1973.

Mr. Avni concluded his announcement with 'Thoughts for the Future', stating:

"I wish it to be known that the Corporation is not intoxicated by the success of its numismatic achievements worldwide. The past year has seen a revolution in Israel numismatics. The number of subscribers has tripled, and the network of dealers and bankers has increased out of all recognition. The Corporation will continue with its conservative mintage policy to ensure maximum joy and pleasure for all collectors of Israel coins. Any profits accruing from this activity are earmarked by the Government of Israel for the restoration and preservation of Israel's archaeological and historical sites.

As you know the tremendous interest in coins and medals throughout the world during the past year has created substantial physical and organizational problems for which we were unprepared. Some subscribers may not have been dealt with in our usual efficient and courteous manner. For this we apologize and ask your indulgence with the assurance that we have already begun to remedy any deficiencies".

MEDALS OF THE HOLY LAND

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL 20th ANNIVERSARY 1958



A rare medal recently came to light. It is one of the first presentation medals of Israel, probably issued even before the 10th Anniversary Committee came into existence. Struck by Kretschmer & Sons.

Metal: Copper

Edge: Scalloped

Diameter: 75mm

Obverse: A replica of the Shekel of the 1st Revolt.

Reverse: In the center, in English: "ENLARGEMENT OF A/SHEKEL OF ISRAEL/1ST JEWISH REVOLT, PERIOD 66-70/PRESENTED TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE/UJA TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE/IN ISRAEL/JERUSALEM - JUNE 1958"



JERUSALEM ELECTIONS MEDAL — 1969

This medal was issued in Jerusalem in 1969 and was presented to the workers of the elections committee who supervised the first elections in the reunified City of Jerusalem.

Metal: Cupro-nickel

Edge: Ribbed

Diameter: 30mm

Mintage: 300

Obverse: On the left, the emblem of the City of Jerusalem; in the center, the word: "JERUSALEM" in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

Reverse: Around the top rim, in Hebrew: "UNITED JERUSALEM MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS;" on the bottom rim, in English and Hebrew the date, "1969;" in the center, in Hebrew, "IN TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBER OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE."

JERUSALEM CONFERENCE ON BIBLICAL PROPHECY



This medal was issued in Israel upon the occasion of the Conference. It was struck in uniface as they were mounted on plaques for presentation.

Metal: Tombac-uniface

Edge: Plain

Diameter: 59mm

Obverse: Around the rim in English, "THE JERUSALEM CONFERENCE ON BIBLICAL PROPHECY;" in the center, the

Tower of David; below, as part of the building, the Hebrew word, "PROPHECY"; below, the date "1971."

HEZELIA HIGH SCHOOL



This medal was issued in Israel to commemorate the 50th anniversary of "Gimnassia" (High school) in Tel-Aviv. It was struck uniface as they were mounted on plaques for presentation.

Metal: Bronze — uniface

Edge: Plain

Diameter: 45mm

Obverse: In the center, a front view of the school; below, in Hebrew, "FIFTY YEARS OF GYMNASIA HEZELIA IN TEL-AVIV."

ISRAEL ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY MEDAL



This medal was struck in Israel and presented to the members of the association.

Metal: Bronze — Uniface

Edge: Plain

Diameter: 59mm

Obverse: Around the rim, in Hebrew and English, "ISRAEL CANCER ASSOCIATION;" in the center, the emblem of the Society.

NEW JERSEY INS INDUCTS



The swearing-in of the officers and trustees for the 1973-74 term of the INS of New Jersey. Mr. Morris Bram, President of AINA conducted the brief ceremony.

From left to right, standing (Trustees) — Martin Rubin, Murray Mackler, Carl Rosenblum, Louis Susskind (partially obscured by Morris Bram, back to camera), Zoltan Huth (Sgt.-at-Arms), Laura Rosenblum (Corresp. Sec'y.), Walter D. Moore, Jr. (Treasurer), Sidney Moskowitz (1st Vice-Pres.). Seated: Rowena Finke (Head of New Issues Committee) and Nahum H. Hacohen (Acting Director of IGCAM). Not shown: Nat Finke (President), Max Becker (2nd Vice-Pres.), Margaret E. Moore (Recording Sec'y.), Dr. Harold Grubin, Milton Gottlieb and Robert Schoenwalter (Trustees).

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Cont.)

Kippur War were soul-wrenching experiences. As I write, the first of the wounded soldiers have been exchanged and the uneasy truce prevails. You will read in these pages of just some of the efforts of AINA members and INS Societies to mobilize resources here to assist our Israeli brothers. I am proud of each club and each member who needed no spur from New York to take actions large and small to give Israel the strength to endure. In my almost daily contact with Israelis in America . . . and by mail to our American and Israeli friends, I am impressed by their courage and determination.

I should not have to tell you that with almost everyone in Israel committed to only the most vital efforts, that delays of the new coin and medals are inevitable. The IGCAM office and mint are working with skeleton staffs and the priorities of the nation will simply have to go first to human need. We hope that any delays will be in terms of days and weeks only. We will of course keep you advised.

You will have a chance to talk to Israelis about the *Yom Kippur War* if you will be joining the AINA *Sixth Study Tour to Israel* which is now only 12 weeks ahead. In addition to the advance reservations, there are always verbal commitments. One of these had been from the recently elected president of the Cleveland INS: Sanford Brown. Now his commitment to the *Tour* is public knowledge. He has won the trip to Israel as part of the program you shared in your clubs. What a thrill it was to call him in mid-November to tell him of his good fortune. These are the kinds of moments which make all the weariness of travel to distant meetings, late hours with committees and endless mail so worthwhile for your Society's officers. But if you are to join us, you don't have to win the trip. *Send your \$100.00 per person reservation to AINA today.* Remember: this time

you also have a further Rome-London flight option at the end of the 2-week Israel tour—if you want it.

AINA's *Second Annual Convention* is committed for May 2, 3, 4 and 5 at the New York Sheraton. Clubs should start planning for chartered buses and flights to be in New York for the *Big First Weekend* in May. Do you hope to exhibit your coin collection's most exciting theme group? *Start planning now.*

Finally, the November Board meeting has reviewed AINA's growth and plans are afoot to *double* AINA during 1974. Aside from the formation of new clubs which attract local new collectors, we have an even simpler plan for *all* AINA members, in or out of local clubs. *Each member to get a member:* a neighbor, a business associate, a relative, a friend. *Just one!* In that way, you'll be helping Israel to build a circle of friends across America too. *Who will you speak to today?*

Shalom,

Morris Bram, President

\$100 Reserves

Your seat on the

A.I.N.A.

6th STUDY TOUR

TO ISRAEL

in March, 1974

Join the most exciting
numismatic group tour
in history

Send check to
AINA today



PIDYON HABEN SILVER COIN

— 5th IN SERIES

ISSUED IN PROOF AND BU

AND IN 5-COIN CASE

The new Pidyon Haben (*Redemption of the First-Born*) silver coin, is the fifth in the annual series bearing the face value of IL 10; metal: silver 900; diameter: 37mm. Only the obverse has been redesigned. It depicts the State emblem of Israel, above it, "10 Lirot", on its upper righthand side the word 'Israel' in Hebrew. On the right side of the rim, the word 'Israel' in English and Arabic. On the left side of the rim, the year 5734-1974.

The reverse of the coin is the same as 1973. It features an incused elliptical offering tray, comprising five tiny replicas of Shekels struck in Jerusalem during the *First Jewish Revolt* against the Romans, arranged around the Hebrew quotation from Exodus: "All the firstborn of thy sons thou shalt redeem". On the rim, opposite the tray, the Hebrew legend: "Coin of Redemption".

The coin is minted in two varieties: proof and brilliant uncirculated. The Proof coin has reeded edges and is mintmarked with the Hebrew letter 'mem'; the B.U. coin is smooth-edged and is mintmarked with the Star of David. Both varieties are minted at the Government Mint in Jerusalem. The mintage figures are Proof - 45,000; B.U. - to be determined at the end of the year. The 1973 B.U. Pidyon Haben Coin mintage figure is 105,000.

The Pidyon Haben coin is a collectors item and is used for Jewish ceremonial purposes. A set of five coins, for use in the redemption of the first-born son ceremony, is available in an attractive case. A certificate attesting officially to their fitness for ritual use is attached to each box, with an English translation.

Ordering procedures will be announced shortly.



AN OIL-FIRED MENORAH FROM BABYLONIA (Iraq-Syria)



NEW 5-POUND HANNUKAH COIN ANNOUNCED

Available Shortly in Proof and BU

Metal: Silver (750)

Size: 34mm in Diameter

BU - 95,000 PROOF - 45,000